GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:112
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2004
INDIANS MISSING IN IRAQ
Panda Shri Prabodh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indians who had gone to Iraq for taking up jobs there have gone missing;

(b) whether a number of Indians who had gone to Iraq for taking up jobs have also been kidnapped;

(c) if so, the number of such Indians who went missing and kidnapped during the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to trace them out?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHMED)

(a) No, sir;

(b) & (c) Four Indians were kidnapped in Iraq this year. In April 2004, kidnapping of an Indian national was reported alongwith nationals of some other countries and they were released after a few hours. Three Indian truck drivers were taken hostage on 21 July, 2004 and were released on 1 September, 2004. There are no other reported cases of Indians missing or kidnapped in Iraq during the last three years;

(d) Does not arise.